

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-10 will be pending. By this amendment, claim 2 has been canceled; claims 1 and 3-10 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

**§103 Rejection of Claims 1-10**

In Section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Borgstahl (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,183) in combination with Eisenhandler (U.S. Patent No. 5,452,291) and Shteyn (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,136). Claims 1 and 3-10 have been amended to address the rejection. Claim 2 has been canceled.

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that “the portable information devices such as a cellular phone and PDAs have remarkably progressed as well as the home network. The use of portable information devices is however limited to out-of-home uses such as phone calling, data communication, and schedule management, and is isolated from home appliances. Resources and units on a portable information device, such as operation and display units, therefore are not usable for the home network. . . . Portable information devices such as a cellular phone and PDAs are independently operated on themselves, not intended to be operated by external equipment. If the portable information devices, which are progressing in personalization, share resources of external equipment, they can be exploited effectively.”

*Background of the Specification, page 3, lines 1-14.*

To address the above-described shortcomings of the conventional portable information

devices and home networks, embodiments of the present invention provide a capability for portable information devices to operate efficiently with a home network, which is configured to integrate low-speed network connecting home appliances with high-speed network connecting electronic devices through a bridging device. For example, the structure of access device claim 3, as presented herein, includes:

*“a network interface for providing access to a home network of low-speed network for connecting home appliances and high-speed network for connecting electronic devices integrated with a bridging element, said bridging element configured to provide conversion of formats of messages and character codes, and to exchange address structures, said network interface operating to communicate with each of said home appliances and electronic devices;*

*a portable information device interface for communicating with said portable information device; and*

*control means for negotiating with said portable information device via said portable information device interface, said control means configured to provide conversion of transmission rates and protocols to enable said portable information device to communicate with said home network,*

*wherein data can be transmitted between said portable information device and each of said low-speed network for connecting home appliances and high-speed network for connecting electronic devices through said portable information device interface and said network interface after the negotiation by the control means.”*

(emphasis added)

In summary, the access device includes a network interface, a portable information device interface, and control means. The network interface connects a portable information device to a home network that interfaces low-speed network connecting home appliances and high-speed network connecting electronic devices using a bridging element, which provides conversion of formats of messages and character codes, and exchange of address structures. See specification, page 10, lines 6-9. The control means provides conversion of transmission rates

and protocols to enable said portable information device to communication with said home network. See specification, page 13, lines 18-23.

By contrast, although Borgstahl, Eisenhandler, and Shteyn discuss a possibility of providing a portable device to communicate with a home network that networks devices with a gateway, Borgstahl, Eisenhandler, and Shteyn, in combination or individually, fail to teach or suggest an access device including a network interface, a portable information device interface, and control means, wherein the network interface connects a portable information device to a home network that interfaces low-speed network connecting home appliances and high-speed network connecting electronic devices using a bridging element, which provides conversion of formats of messages and character codes, and exchange of address structures; and wherein the control means provides conversion of transmission rates and protocols to enable the portable information device to communicate with the home network

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is maintained that claim 3 should be allowable over the combination of Borgstahl, Eisenhandler, and Shteyn. Since claims 1, 7, 9, and 10 closely parallel, and include substantially similar limitations as, claim 3, claims 1, 7, 9, and 10 should also be allowable over the combination of Borgstahl, Eisenhandler, and Shteyn. Further, since claims 4-6 and 8 depend from claims 3 and 7, respectively, claims 4-6 and 8 should also be allowable over the combination of Borgstahl, Eisenhandler, and Shteyn. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-10 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1 and 3-10 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

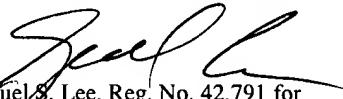
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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